

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-119 remain in this application. Claim 50 is amended to correct an obvious typographical error.

In the Office Action dated January 25, 2005, the Examiner rejected claim 50 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, because the first line of claim 50 is incomplete. Applicants submit that as-amended claim 50 overcomes this rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-119 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner states that the Applicants have failed to provide support for claiming that the polymerizate is non-elastomeric. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants submit that several general rules have emerged from the Federal Circuit regarding the written description requirement. First, the subject matter of the claim need not be described literally or "in *ipsis verbis*" in order for the specification to satisfy the description requirement. *See, e.g., Cordis Corp. v. Medtronic Ave., Inc.*, 339 F.3d 1352 (Fed. Cir.), *reh'g denied*, 2003 U.S. App. LEXIS 22508 (2003); *In re Lukach*, 442 F.2d 967, 969, 169 U.S.P.Q. 795, 796 (C.C.P.A. 1971). Furthermore, it is sufficient that the specification "convey clearly to those skilled in the art the information that the applicant has invented the specific subject matter later claimed." *See, e.g., In re Wertheim*, 541 F.2d 257, 262, 191 U.S.P.Q. 90, 96 (C.C.P.A. 1976); *In re Ruschig*, 379 F.2d 990, 996, 154 U.S.P.Q. 118, 123 (C.C.P.A. 1967).

Applicants submit that the term "non-elastomeric" has an ordinary meaning and thus, the term "non-elastomeric" would be clearly understood by one having ordinary skill in the art. The term "elastomer" has been defined as polymer(s) having "...the ability to be stretched to at least twice their original length and to retract very rapidly to approximately their original length when released. Among the better-known elastomers introduced since the 1930's are styrene-butadiene copolymer, polychloroprene (neoprene), nitrile rubber, butyl rubber, polysulfide rubber,..." (See *The Condensed Chemical Dictionary, Tenth Edition*). Thus, Applicants submit that the term "non-elastomeric" would mean polymer(s) that do not have the ability to be stretched to at least

twice their original length and are unable to retract very rapidly to approximately their original length when released.

The specification (see page 4, lines 19-24) discloses that the polymerizate of the invention has an initial Barcol hardness of at least 1. The term “hardness” has an ordinary meaning in the art. The term “hardness” has been defined as “The resistance of a material to deformation of an indenter of specific size and shape under a known load.” (See *The Condensed Chemical Dictionary, Tenth Edition*). In the specification, Examples 2 - 11 describe the preparation of plastic sheets. On page 30, lines 1- 2, it is disclosed that “The examples demonstrate the excellent high refractive index, high Abbe number and hardness (impact resistance) of the polymerizate of the present invention.”

Moreover, the specification (see page 22, line 31) discloses that the polymerizate of the invention has good impact resistance. The term “impact resistance/strength” has an ordinary meaning in the art. The term “impact strength” has been defined as “The ability of a material to accept a sudden blow or shock without fracture or other substantial damage, measured by standard impact-testing equipment.” (See *The Condensed Chemical Dictionary, Tenth Edition*).

Furthermore, the specification discloses that polymerizates prepared in accordance with the claimed invention will be solid and suitable for optical or ophthalmic applications, such as optical lenses, ophthalmic lenses, sun lenses, windows, automotive transparencies and aircraft transparencies (see the specification page 22, line 26 to page 23, line 6).

Based on the disclosure in the specification of the above-mentioned characteristics of the claimed invention (e.g., hardness, impact strength, hardness, etc.) and the ordinary meaning of the term “non-elastomeric”, Applicants submit that adequate support and guidance is clearly provided in the specification for claiming a non-elastomeric polymerizate. Thus, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1-119 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph should not stand.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-119 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants submit that the Federal Circuit has had an opportunity to decide a number of enablement issues. “The enablement requirement is satisfied when one skilled in the art, after reading the specification, could practice the claimed invention without undue experimentation.” *AK Steel Corp. v. Sollac*, 344 F.3d 1234, 1244 (Fed. Cir. 2003), citing *In re Wands*, 858 F.2d 731, 736-37 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Applicants submit that adequate guidance which would enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the claimed non-

elastomeric polymerizate is clearly provided in the specification. The specification is directed to preparation of a polymerizate by polymerizing a two-component composition. The specification includes a detailed disclosure of the various materials used in preparing the two-component composition, the means of polymerizing the composition, and the characteristics of the resultant polymerizate (see page 4, lines 19-24, page 22, line 31, and page 22, line 26 to page 23, line 6). Applicants submit that in view of the specification, one of ordinary skill in the art could clearly practice the claimed invention without undue experimentation and therefore, the enablement requirement is clearly satisfied.

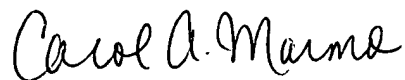
Moreover, the term “elastomer” and thus, “non-elastomeric”, has an ordinary meaning. The term “elastomer” has been defined as polymer(s) having “...the ability to be stretched to at least twice their original length and to retract very rapidly to approximately their original length when released. Among the better-known elastomers introduced since the 1930’s are styrene-butadiene copolymer, polychloroprene (neoprene), nitrile rubber, butyl rubber, polysulfide rubber,...” (See *The Condensed Chemical Dictionary, Tenth Edition*). Thus, Applicants submit that the term “non-elastomeric” would be defined as polymer(s) that do not have the ability to be stretched to at least twice their original length and are unable to retract very rapidly to approximately their original length when released.

Furthermore, on page 22, line 13, it is disclosed that various conventional additives such as but not limited to flexibilizing additives can be added to the composition. Applicants submit that this disclosure provides support for the resultant polymerizate not being a flexible material. If a flexible material is desired, a flexibilizing additive can be added to produce such a polymerizate.

In view of the disclosure in the specification, Applicants submit that the claimed non-elastomeric polymerizate is clearly enabled and thus, the rejection of claims 1-119 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, should not stand.

Applicants submit that claims 1-119 are in condition for allowance and therefore, respectfully request reconsideration of these claims.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol A. Marmo".

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
March 30, 2005